



NAEP 2009

IN YOUR SCHOOL

What is NAEP?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), or The Nation's Report Card, is an essential measurement of student achievement in America.

NAEP is a congressionally mandated project of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the U.S. Department of Education.

NAEP is the only nationally representative assessment of what America's students know and can do in core subjects like mathematics, reading, science, and writing.

The schools and students participating in NAEP represent other schools and students in their state and across the country.

NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments because of its impeccable technical quality. The assessment frameworks are developed with input from assessment specialists, education experts, teachers, and content specialists from around the nation.

NAEP monitors student progress over time and reports on student achievement nationally. In some subjects and grades, results are also available for states and selected urban districts.

In Idaho, NAEP 2009 state-level results will be reported for reading, mathematics and science at grades 4 and 8, and (the first time ever) for reading and mathematics at grade 12.

NAEP will be administered in your school between January 26 and March 6, 2009 to your students who were selected for the Idaho sample. Each student will be assessed in mathematics, reading, or science. The Idaho State Board of Education has included NAEP in the statewide testing program.

This fact sheet will help prepare your school and students for participation.

What is involved?

Students will spend about 90 minutes completing the assessment, including answering questions in one subject area and completing background questions. An additional 30 minutes of time will be necessary for some students participating in the hands-on science tasks.

The school principal and the teachers of the subjects being assessed will fill out a questionnaire. These questionnaires gather information about the school's characteristics, and types of educational experiences related to performance, such as amount of homework, reading habits and teacher experience.

Additional questionnaires will be completed by teachers of selected students with disabilities (SD) and English language learners (ELL). This information will be used to help identify appropriate test accommodations for SD and ELL students.

In grades 4 and 8, NAEP will administer a separate survey to all American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) students who are selected for NAEP and their teachers and school administrators. This survey, part of the National Indian Education Study (NIES), focuses on Indian education and the role of Indian culture in education. It is expected that about one-quarter of the schools selected for NAEP will have AI/AN students.

In some high schools, NAEP will conduct the High School Transcript Study (HSTS). The HSTS surveys the curricula being followed in our nation's high schools and the course-taking patterns of high school students. In schools selected for this study, transcripts will be collected in Spring and Summer 2009, after the administration of NAEP.

How many students are assessed?

Nationally, over 500,000 students at each grade will be assessed to represent the nation and their state. In grade 4 schools, all eligible students up to 120 will be assessed. In grade 8 schools, the sample will range from 90 to 270 students. In grade 12 schools, the sample will range from 80 to 320 students.

What are the responsibilities of the NAEP State Coordinator and NAEP staff?

The NAEP State Coordinator, who works in the Office of the State Board of Education, will be responsible for:

- ✓ Working with schools to confirm the assessment date;
- ✓ Providing schools with instructions for preparing an electronic file of grade-eligible students (using MS Excel) and information about notifying parents of participating students;
- ✓ Responding to questions from the school community throughout the assessment period; and
- ✓ Notifying schools about the NAEP state report as soon as it becomes available.

NAEP staff members are employed by an NCES contractor (not by your State Department/Board of Education) to work directly with schools and will be responsible for:

- ✓ Selecting a random sample of students from the school list of grade-eligible students;
- ✓ Sending a Preassessment Packet of information to the school coordinator in early January;
- ✓ Visiting the school coordinator shortly after the Preassessment Packet is received to finalize assessment arrangements;
- ✓ Bringing all assessment materials to the school on the scheduled day; and
- ✓ Conducting the assessments.

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What are the principal's and school coordinator's responsibilities?

Each principal will be responsible for:

- ✓ Designating a staff person in the school to serve as the School Coordinator. The school coordinator and the principal will work with the NAEP staff.
- ✓ Including the NAEP assessment date on the school calendar;
- ✓ Empowering the designated school coordinator to work with the NAEP staff and the NAEP State Coordinator to prepare for the assessment; and
- ✓ Informing school staff and students about NAEP and why student participation is critically important.

The school coordinator will be responsible for:

- ✓ Confirming with the NAEP State Coordinator that the suggested assessment date is convenient for the school.
- ✓ Providing the NAEP State Coordinator with an electronic file of grade-eligible students; and
- ✓ Informing parents of the assessment. The NAEP State Coordinator will provide a letter template and additional information about how this should be accomplished.

Before the assessment date, the school coordinator will be responsible for:

- ✓ Receiving the Preassessment Packet and beginning final preparations for the assessment;
- ✓ Meeting with the NAEP staff during the scheduled preassessment visit; and
- ✓ Ensuring that there is a plan with school staff to achieve high participation of students at the session.

Detailed information about the school coordinator's role will be sent in the fall.